Import of Hydro Electric Power Sets

*4. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are over-ruling the recommendations of the Empowered Committee and have ordered the import of three hydro electric power sets of 30 MW each from the United Kingdom which are manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited also;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a decision; and

(c) how the loss of Rs. 25 crores will be met by the public sector undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board have been permitted import of three 30 MW turbines and generators including spares from UK for a CIF value of £12,157,170 for Nagarjunasagar Hydro-Electric Project, under global tender scheme. The British Government have offered grant to meet full cost of these equipments. The credit offer of the British Government is tied to this project and cannot be utilised elsewhere. The import of these equipments would thus be free of cost. Recommendations of the Empowered Committee on import of capital goods are taken into account while arriving at decisions on such imports.

(c) In order to improve the capacity utilisation of the indigenous industry, Government have taken up an exercise to identify projects where orders for power generation equipment could be placed in advance on indigenous manufacturers.

Laying of Foundation Stone of Karnal Refinery

*5. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foundation stone of the Karnal refinery was laid by the Prime Minister recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) the Karnal Refinery Project was launched by the Prime Minister on 30-3-1987. This refinery is proposed to be set up as a 6 MTPA refinery to meet the demand of petroleum products in the North West region of the country. It is estimated to cost Rs. 1500 cdores and is proposed to be set up in the joint sector.

Indian Oil Corporation has been requested to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited as the private sector co-promoter. The two parties will have each 26 per cent of the equity of the Joint venture Company and the balance of the resources will be raised from the Public etc. The refinery is expected to be completed within about 60 months.

Increase in prices of LPG Cylinders

*6. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA:
SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of LPG cylinders supplied to industry as well as

hotels and restaurants have recently been increased by Government;

(b) if so, whether this decision for differential pricing of cylinders is likely to lead to black marketing and shortage of cylinders meant for domestic consumption; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Prices of IPCL Products

*7. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of different products of the Indian Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited and those of the three pharmaceutical companies viz. Smith Stanistreet, Bengal Chemicals and Bengal Immunity are higher than those of the other private pharmaceutical companies;

(b) what are the considerations which weigh with the Indian Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited in fixing prices of its products; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to fall in line with private companies in fixing prices of the products by these three companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The prices of drugs and formulations under Categories I, II and III of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 are fixed by the Government of India. M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd., M/s. Smith Stanistreet, M/s. Bengal Chemicals and M/s. Bengal Immunity are not selling these drugs at prices higher than the Government fixed prices.

(b) and (c) Price fixation of products of other Category depend upon the market conditions, products strengths, competitive ability and costs of production.

Bottling capacity of Cooking Gas in West Bengal

*8. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the bottling capacity of cooking gas cylinder plants per day in West Bengal;

(b) what is the per day distribution of cooking gas cylinders in the State; and

(c) how the surplus cylinders, if any, are being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FNANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The capacity of LPG Bottling Plants in West Bengal is presently around 20,000 cylinders per day.

(b) The average demand in West Bengal is around 15,000 cylinders per day.

(c) The surplus cylinders are supplied to neighbouring States like Orissa and Bihar.

Uniform Civil Code

*9. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 162 given